

a determining means for determining whether or not a format agrees between said sound signal and said second decoding program;

a validating means for validating one of said first decoding program and said second decoding program on the basis of a determination result of said determining means;

a decoding means for decoding said sound signal by the decoding program validated by said validating means; and

an outputting means for outputting the decoded sound signal decoded by said decoding means.

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5. (Amended) A sound reproducing apparatus, comprising:

a recording means for recording into a recording medium a data file in which a sound signal encoded in a predetermined format and a decoding program according to said predetermined format are stored;

a loading means for loading said decoding program from said recording medium;

a decoding means for decoding said sound signal by said decoding program loaded by said loading means; and

an outputting means for outputting a decoded sound signal decoded by said decoding means.

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Please add the following new claims:

9. A sound reproducing apparatus, comprising:

an attaching means for detachably attaching a recording medium on which a sound signal encoded in a first format and a first encoding program according to said first format are recorded;

a storing means for storing a second decoding program according to a second format;

a determining means for determining whether or not a format agrees between said sound signal and said second decoding program;

a validating means for validating one of said first decoding program and said second decoding program on the basis of a determination result of said determining means;

a decoding means for decoding said sound signal by the decoding program validated by said validating means; and

an outputting means for outputting a decoded sound signal decoded by said decoding means,

wherein

said decoding means carries out a first number-of-bit operation,

said recording medium records said first decoding program corresponding to said first number-of-bit operation and said first decoding program corresponding to a second number-of-bit operation,

said validating means loads said first decoding program corresponding to said first number-of-bit operation from said recording medium when said determination result represents disagreement.

10. A sound reproducing apparatus, comprising:

an attaching means for detachably attaching a recording medium on which a sound signal encoded in a predetermined format and a decoding program according to said predetermined format are recorded;

a loading means for loading said decoding program from said recording medium;

a decoding means for decoding said sound signal by said decoding program loaded by said loading means; and

an outputting means for outputting a decoded sound signal decoded by said decoding means, wherein

said decoding means carries out a first number-of-bit operation,

said decoding program includes a first decoding program corresponding to said first number-of-bit operation and a second decoding program corresponding to a second number-of-bit operation,

said loading means loads said first decoding program from said recording medium.